

Remarks Made at Services for
Homer Hunter
Friday, March 8, 2002

I consider it an honor indeed to have been asked to be a part of this service and to say a few words about my friend and neighbor Homer Hunter. I have known Homer Hunter for almost fifty years, and he has been my next door neighbor for the past 13 years.

I am certain that Mr. Hunter would not want us to gather here today in great sorrow. For he was a man who loved life and people. He always had a positive attitude. Homer Hunter would want us to gather here today to celebrate his long and useful life.

When I think of Homer Hunter there are five things which come to mind:

1. His great concern for his wife and family
2. How civic minded he was
3. His lifelong dedication to his Christian faith and to the Methodist Church
4. His great love for sports, especially for East Central Community College and its athletic programs
5. And the fact that he was a walking history of Newton County and the genealogy of the families of the county.

WIFE AND FAMILY

Mr. Hunter was married to Miss Ola Carter on September 5, 1942. Mr. and Mrs.

Hunter were the parents of three daughters: Mrs. Ann Burkes, Mrs. Sue Greenfield, and Mrs. Jane Smith.

There is an old saying in the South that anyone can tell when children were "raised right." Well, the Hunters' girls were raised right. These three women are ladies of the first order. They are a credit to their mother and father. They always respected their father, and he always expressed great love for them, their mother, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Hunter was always involved with his extended family--his brothers and sisters and their families. He was always very proud of the successes of his nieces and nephews.

CIVIC-MINDEDNESS

Mr. Hunter was a civic and community minded person. In his earlier years, he coached little league. He was a long time member of the Lions Club and seldom missed a meeting. He was also a member of the Evergreen Lodge and a life member of the East Central Community College Alumni Association. He was always greatly interested in the progress of the town's churches, schools, and businesses. He began working in the Decatur post office in 1940 and later became the Decatur postmaster. If you pass the post office today, you will notice that the flag is flying at half staff in his honor, and in recognition of his many years of service.

Mr. Hunter could tell you how to find any individual who lived on a Decatur rural route. People were always going to the post office to ask him how to find a certain individual, and he could always direct them right to the door of that person.

CHURCH

Mr. Hunter was raised in a Christian family and was involved in the Methodist Church throughout his lifetime. He served as superintendent of the Sunday School for more than 30 years. In fact, he served in every capacity in this church except filling the pulpit. The poet Robert Browning once said, "God's in his heaven; all's right with the world." For all these years I have come to this church, I could look over to where Mr. and Mrs. Hunter sat and say to myself, "Mr. Homer is in church, and all is right with the world. He was always present--sleet, rain, snow, or what have you. And Mr. Hunter's service to Christ and to the church was performed with great humility.

SPORTS

Sports played a big part in Mr. Hunter's life. During the first 54 years of East Central's existence, Mr. Hunter only missed 4 football games. He missed one basketball game this year, and he would have been there had he not been in the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter always sat in the same place at basketball games, and although Mr. Hunter kept up with the games and could tell you exactly what was going on, he also enjoyed visiting with the many people who stopped by to speak to him during the game.

Mr. Hunter was a student at East Central in 1938 and maintained a lifelong interest in the college. In fact, he kept 2 books by his chair always--One was his 1938 annual from East Central; the other was the History of Newton County. There is today a plaque in the gymnasium placed there to recognize Mr. Hunter's lifelong support of East Central athletics.

KNOWLEDGE OF COUNTY AND GENEALOGY

Mr. Hunter was a walking encyclopedia of Newton County history and genealogy. In fact, he was directly related to the McMullans, the Stampers, the McClendons and the Haleys--all pioneer families of Newton County.

If I ever had a question about the county or someone in the county, I would go and ask Mr. Hunter. He was a wealth of information.

Born in this county and lived here all his life with the exception of 2 years he spent at Ovetts while working with the Dennis Mercantile Company

He could tell you about the day the plane fell at the old fairgrounds south of town.

He could tell you why Broad Street is the only street in town with sidewalks.

He could tell you about his father Dr. B. F. Hunter going from community to community in this county fixing teeth (mention drill).

Mr. Hunter could tell a good story and he enjoyed humor.

Story of Dr. Hunter extracting a drunk man's tooth

Story of the apple tree at the rear of Mr. Hunter's property

Story of Mr. Hunter making a slip of the tongue-----Bless this sankta holiwery, sola hanktuary, God bless this church.

God had a plant for Homer Hunter's life:

He was born on July 5, 1918

He began working at the post office on Oct. 5, 1940

He was married September 5, 1942

He passed away on March 5, 2002

Homer Hunter was a great individual. I want you girls and Mrs. Hunter and all the

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members of this family to leave this service today knowing that Mr. Hunter will always be remembered, and remembered with a feeling of respect, kindness, love and appreciation by all of us who called him our neighbor and friend.

ENOCH STORY